

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

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INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01 /120 W

----- 011547

R 231135Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9661

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DARESSALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 2065

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PO

SUBJ: HIGH JUNTA OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON PORTUGUESE
AFRICA

SUMMARY: HIGH JUNTA OFFICIAL PREDICTS EARLY NOMINATION
NEW GOVERNORS GENERAL ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE, IS
PESSIMISTIC ABOUT MOZAMBIQUE SITUATION, OPTIMISTIC ABOUT
ANGOLA, AND FEELS CEASEFIRE PORTUGUESE-GUINEA IMMINENT
WITH CAPE VERDE ISLANDS EXCLUDED FROM NEGOTIATIONS
WITH PAIGC. END SUMMARY

1. IN CONVERSATION MAY 22 WITH DCM, ARMED FORCES
CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL COSTA GOMES INDICATED THAT
NOMINATION OF NEW GOVERNORS GENERAL IN ANGOLA AND
MOZAMBIQUE WOULD PROBABLY BE MADE SHORTLY BUT
POSSIBLY ONLY AFTER RETURN TO LISBON OF MINISTER
OF INTERTERRITORIAL COORDINATION ALMEIDA SANTOS.
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THE MAN FOR MOZAMBIQUE HAS ALREADY BEEN SELECTED.

HE DESCRIBED HIM AS A HIGHLY RESPECTED LAWYER FROM MOZAMBIQUE BUT GAVE NO NAME. (THIS MORNING'S LISBON PRESS IN ARTICLE COVERING ALMEIDA SANTOS' ACTIVITIES IN MOZAMBIQUE CARRIED SUB-HEADING INDICATING THAT NOMINATION IS PROBABLE OF DR. SOARES DE MELO, A NAME NEW TO EMBASSY.

HOWEVER BODY OF ARTICLE MAKES NO MENTION OF NEW GOVERNOR GENERAL.) COSTA GOMES SAID THAT DECISION NOT YET FINAL WITH REGARD ANGOLA BUT PERSON MOST INDICATED IS DR. DEODATO COUTINHO, NEWLY APPOINTED SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ADMINISTRATION IN MINISTRY OF INTERTERRITORIAL COORDINATION.

2. GENERAL COSTA GOMES CONFIRMED HIS PESSIMISM ABOUT SITUATION IN MOZAMBIQUE WHICH STEMS PARTICULARLY FROM WHITE RACISM IN THAT TERRITORY. CONCERNING PORTUGUESE GUINEA HE SAID THAT PROSPECTS WERE VERY PROMISING THAT THE PAIGC IN THE TALKS SCHEDULED FOR MAY 25 IN LONDON WOULD AGREE TO A CEASEFIRE, BOTH SIDES BEING INTENSELY WEARY OF THE FIGHTING. HE EXPECTED RELATIVELY QUICK PAIGC AGREEMENT TO THE HOLDING OF A REFERENDUM IN PORTUGUESE GUINEA. HE ALSO EXPRESSED OPTIMISM OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF SECURING PAIGC AGREEMENT TO SEPARATE CAPE VERDE ISLANDS FROM PORTUGUESE GUINEA IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. (LOCAL PRESS CARRIES ACCOUNT OF INTERVIEW BY JEUNE AFRIQUE IN WHICH FOREIGN MINISTER MARIO SOARES IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT PAIGC HAS AGREED THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL DEAL SOLELY WITH GUINEA-BISSAU.)

3. AS TO ANGOLA, COSTA GOMES WAS RELATIVELY OPTIMISTIC. HE FEELS THAT BOTH UNITA AND THE MPLA ARE ORGANIZATIONS WITH WHICH FRUITFUL TALKS CAN BE HELD AND ARE GROUPS WHICH WOULD BE WILLING TO ENTER INTO NORMAL POLITICAL PARTY LIFE IN ANGOLA. HE SAID HE HAD NO DOUBT BUT THAT THE MPLA WAS THE AFRICAN GROUP HAVING THE GREATEST FOLLOWING AMONG THE AFRICANS IN ANGOLA. THE MAIN PROBLEM WOULD BE WITH THE FLNA WHICH HAS A RATHER LIMITED FOLLOWING IN THE BAKONGO AREA AND MIGHT NOT WANT

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TO HAVE THIS FACT SO CLEARLY ESTABLISHED BY PARTICIPATING IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS. SCOTT

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